

REMARKS

Applicant is submitting a request for continued prosecution with this preliminary amendment to solicit the Examiner's continued consideration of this application. By this preliminary amendment, Applicant amends claims 51, 52, 80, 81, 103, and 104 and presents reasons why the claims here are distinct from the prior art asserted by the Examiner.

In paragraph 2 of the final office action, the Examiner rejected claims 51-79 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(b) as being unpatentable over Shavit et al., in view of Kaye et al., and further in view of Foster et al. In paragraph 3 of the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 80-106 as being unpatentable over Shavit and Kaye, and further in view of Smith.

Applicant respectfully submits that as recognized by the Examiner, Shavit does not indicate "*a maximum purchase price for a particular good or service that the buyer is willing to pay.*" The Examiner believes that Kaye satisfies this void. Applicant notes that Kaye merely indicates that "*price*" may serve as one of several descriptive parameters for a search. The "*price*" here is not an indication of the maximum price a buyer is willing to pay. This is apparent by the fact that once an item has been identified as being available at another member's site, the local member "*can then contact that vendor using the vendor information which is available with each line item of inventory stored*" (see Kaye, column 4, lns. 16-20). Moreover, Applicant submits that Foster does nothing more than verify the number of digits entered by the user as being the expected number of PIN digits. Applicant's check digit involves a sum check of the digits.

Applicant respectfully submits that his claims are distinct from the various combinations of prior art asserted by the Examiner for the reasons urged here. Applicant has further amended

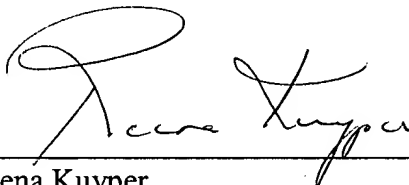
his claims to further emphasize these distinctions and to other eliminate redundant recitations.

Favorable consideration and allowance of the claims here are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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